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PAGE 01 USUN N 01862 170549 Z

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(ROGERS, WILLIAM P)

SUBJECT: NY TIMES SUMMARY MAY 17

THE RESIGNATION OF G. BRADFORD COOK AS HEAD OF THE SEC AND A FURTHER KISSINGER INVOLVEMENT IN FBI WIRETAPS LEAD THE NEW YORK TIMES' COVERAGE OF WATERGATE MAY 17 AS THE ERVIN HEARINGS WERE ABOUT TO START ON CAPITOL HILL. THE PAPER'S FOUR- COLUMN HEADLINE READ: " COOK QUILTS SEC OVER VESCO CASE; KISSINGER SAID TO HAVE ASKED FBI TO WIRETAP A NUMBER OF HIS AIDES". EDITORIALY, THE TIMES SAID THAT BREZHNEV'S PROJECTED VISIT TO WASHINGTON IN JUNE WAS UNTIMELY IN VIEW OF THE WATERGATE CIRCUMSTANCES AND APPLAUDED COOK'S DECISION TO STEP DOWN.

THE PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS IN THE CASE AS REPORTED BY TIMES WERE:

1) COOK RESIGNED AS SEC CHAIRMAN, FOLLOWING A FEDERAL GRAND JURY INDICTMENT OF MITCHELL AND STANS WHICH SAID STANS HAD PERSUADED COOK TO DELETE FROM AN SEC CIVIL ACTION AGAINST VESCO INFORMATION RELATING TO A SECRET \$200,000 CONTRIBUTION VESCO MADE TO NIXON'S CAMPAIGN.

2) ACCORDING TO JUSTICE DEPARTMENT SOURCES, KISSINGER PROVIDED THE FBI WITH THE NAMES OF A NUMBER OF HIS AIDES ON THE NSC WHOSE TELEPHONES HE WANTED TAPPED. AMONG THOSE AIDES WAS HELMUT SONNENFELDT, AND, THE SOURCES SAID, KISSINGER'S ROLE IN THE WIRETAPPING WAS " FAR MORE EXTENSIVE THAN UNCLASSIFIED

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PAGE 02 USUN N 01862 170549 Z

PREVIOUSLY REPORTED." KISSINGER INITIALLY FORWARDED THE FORMAL REQUEST FOR THE TAPS TO HOOVER AFTER BEING AUTHORIZED TO DO SO BY NIXON. THE TIMES QUOTED ONE JUSTICE DEPARTMENT SOURCE AS SAYING: " THE REQUEST CAME FROM KISSINGER. HENRY WANTED SOME OF THOSE GUYS BUGGED HIMSELF. IF HENRY DIDN' T APPROVE OF ALL THIS HE COULD HAVE SAID SO". THE SOURCE ADDED THAT THE FBI TAP HAD CLEARED SONNENFELDT.

3) A TIMES SURVEY OF 27 FOREIGN COUNTRIES SHOWED THAT CRITICISM ABROAD OF THE NIXON ADMINISTRATION OVER WATERGATE HAD BEEN SLIGHT. " AMERICAN FOREIGN RELATIONS SO FAR DO NOT APPEAR TO HAVE SUFFERED SIGNIFICANT DAMAGE", THE STORY SAID," ... IN FACT THE CONTRARY SEEMS TO BE THE CASE. TIME AFTER TIME, OFFICIALS AND NEWSPAPERS HAVE EXPRESSED ADMIRATION FOR THE AMERICAN SYSTEM OF CHECKS AND BALANCES AND FOR THE DOGGEDNESS OF A FREE PRESS IN BRINGING THE AFFAIR TO LIGHT. IN PARIS, FOR EXAMPLE,... THE WATERGATE AFFAIR HAS GRADUALLY PROVOKED UNDERSTANDING DISCUSSION OF THE AMERICAN SYSTEM. IN SOME COUNTRIES WITH A LONG TRADITION OF CORRUPTION IN HIGH PLACES THERE WERE EXPRESSIONS OF SURPRISE THAT AMERICANS COULD GET SO EXCITED ABOUT WATERGATE".

4) REPUBLICAN PARTY LEADERS FROM THE SOUTHERN STATES, MEETING PRIVATELY IN WASHINGTON, CRITICIZED THE PRESIDENT' S HANDLING OF WATERGATE AS DAMAGING TO BOTH THE PARTY AND THE COUNTRY. SO DID BARRY GOLDWATER.

5) THE TIMES ALSO PRINTED ON PAGE ONE A STORY ABOUT THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT' S HAVING ACCUSED WALL STREET BANKER JOHN L. LOEB OF DISGUIISING A \$48,000 CONTRIBUTION TO SENATOR HUMPHREY' S UNSUCCESSFUL CAMPAIGN FOR THE DEMOCRATIC NOMINATION IN 1972.

EDITORIALLY, THE PAPER LEAD WITH A COMMENTARY HEADED " UNTIMELY VISIT" WHICH ASSERTED THAT BREZHNEV' S PLANNED TRIP TO THE UNITED STATES NEXT MONTH WAS " DECIDEDLY INOPPORTUNE". THE EDITORIAL CONTINUED: " IT IS NOT IN THE INTEREST OF THE UNITED STATES OR ITS ALLIES FOR AN AMERICAN PRESIDENT TO ENTER INTO SUBSTANTIVE NEGOTIATIONS WITH HIS CHIEF DIPLOMATIC RIVAL WHEN A DOMESTIC POLITICAL STORM PUTS THE PRESIDENT AT A SERIOUS POLITICAL DISADVANTAGE. MR. BREZHNEV IS FULLY UNCLASSIFIED

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PAGE 03 USUN N 01862 170549 Z

BRIEFED ON WATERGATE. HE MAY WELL BE TEMPTED TO RAISE HIS DIPLOMATIC PRICE ON VARIOUS ISSUES IN THE CONFIDENT BELIEF THAT MR. NIXON, AT THIS PARTICULAR TIME, NEEDS VISIBLE PROOF OF PROGRESS TOWARD WORLD PEACE SO URGENTLY THAT HE WOULD BE PREPARED TO PAY THE HIGHER PRICE".

TURING TO THE OPENING OF THE ERVIN HEARINGS, THE TIMES EDITOR-

IALIST ASKED A LONG SERIES OF RHETORICAL QUESTION COVERING THE MAJOR ASPECTS OF THE AFFAIR, AND CONCLUDED: " IF PRESIDENT NIXON WERE THE KIND OF MAN WHO, LIKE GENERAL EISENHOWER, HAD LITTLE

INTEREST IN THE DETAILS OF POLITICS OR, LIKE PRESIDENT HARDING, WERE UNINTELLIGENT, SOME OF THESE QUESTIONS WOULD NOT ARISE. BUT MR. NIXON IS AN ABLE LAWYER QUITE FAMILIAR FROM THE HISS INVESTIGATION WITH THE WORK OF THE FBI AND OF CRIMINAL PROSECUTORS. HE HAS AN OMNIVOROUS TASTE FOR POLITICAL INFORMATION AND A FEELING FOR THE NUANCES OF POWER. HE IS NOT AN IGNORANT OR CARELESS MAN".

THE TIMES ALSO REPORTED A " STRONG AND FORMAL" PROTEST BY THE PEOPLES REPUBLIC OF CHINA AGAINST THE PAPER' S ACCEPTANCE OF ADVERTISING FROM ANTI- PEKING AND PRO- TAIWAN GROUPS. IT SAID THAT MANAGING EDITOR A. M. ROSENTHAL WAS SUMMONED TO THE PRC UN MISSION IN NEW YORK AND TOLD THAT ACCEPTANCE OF SUCH ADVERTISING WAS " AN UNFRIENDLY ACT". ROSENTHAL TOLD THE CHINESE THAT FREEDOM OF ADVERTISING, INCLUDING POLITICAL ADVERTISING, WAS AN ESSENTIAL ELEMENT OF A FREE PRESS AND THAT THE PAPER' S POLICY IN THIS REGARD COULD NOT BE CHANGED. THE TIMES DREW A CLEAR INFERENCE FROM THIS DEMARCHE THAT IT WOULD NOT BE ALLOWED TO OPEN A BUREAU IN PEKING AS A CONSEQUENCE.

THERE WAS NO MENTION IN THE TIMES' EARLY EDITIONS OF THE SECRETARY' S LATIN AMERICAN TOUR.
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